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FOLK MUSIC ON GLT



MARCH 1993

Thistle and Shamrock

E-town

Acousticity



FIONA RITCHIE HAS BEEN

host of *The Thistle and Shamrock* since she created the popular, weekly one-hour series on Celtic music in 1981. Now celebrating its 10th anniversary,

The Thistle and Shamrock is one of today's most widely broadcast music series from National Public Radio.

Born in Greenock, Scotland, in 1960, Ritchie spent her childhood in nearby Gourock, a small coastal town on the banks of the busy River Clyde in Western Scotland. In a household where the strains of the BBC's "Home Service" filled her childhood days, Ritchie developed an appreciation for radio. Her mother's love of Scottish music and Ritchie's participation in a prominent youth choir nurtured a particular interest in Scottish music. In 1977 she entered Scotland's University of Stirling to study psychology, and English and Scottish literature. She spent her free time traveling around Britain and Europe.

Three years later, Ritchie's desire to travel prompted her to accept a six-month position in the United States as a teaching assistant in the psychology department of the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. She returned to the University of Stirling in 1981 to graduate with honors in psychology.

That same year, Ritchie went back to Charlotte and joined NPR member station WFAE-FM as a volunteer. Four months later, she debuted on the air with music drawn from a small number of albums she had brought to remind her of home. The hour-long program was the earliest version of *The Thistle and Shamrock*.

In 1982 Ritchie became WFAE's director of promotions and development. In 1983 *The Thistle and Shamrock* began national distribution, and Ritchie became full-time producer and host of the program in 1986.

Throughout her years in North Carolina, Ritchie maintained a base in Scotland, and traveled to Ireland, Britain, and Wales to keep in touch with the musicians and cultures featured in her programs. In 1989 and 1990 she visited 22 cities around the United States with *The Thistle and Shamrock* Concert Tour, a live performance showcase of Scottish singers and instrumentalists.

In the summer of 1990, Ritchie moved program production to Edinburgh, Scotland, to facilitate taping interviews and live performances, and to develop further her working relationship with the British Broadcasting Corporation, for whom she hosts occasional live shows. Ritchie also travels regularly to Dublin, Ireland, to record interviews with Irish musicians often featured on *The Thistle and Shamrock*. In her frequent return trips to the United States, Ritchie has visited NPR member stations from Louisiana to Alaska. 🍀

sundays at 7 pm




SPIRITED REELS AND JIGS, haunting ballads, ancient lays, and lilting modern tunes — these are the gentle pleasures of *The Thistle and Shamrock*. The Celtic music series airing Sundays at 7 PM on GLT is hosted by one of the most engaging hosts on the American airwaves, Fiona Ritchie, known as “The First Lady of Folk.”

The gentle sound of faraway Celtic drums summons listeners each week to *The Thistle and Shamrock*, Ritchie’s imaginary pub of the airwaves. With the rich, warm brogue of her native Scotland, Ritchie weaves music, legend, and the strong threads of Celtic culture into a richly embroidered tapestry, its magical strands reaching back thousands of years and yet are still a part of contemporary life in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

The living legacy of Celtic music finds the perfect home at *The Thistle and Shamrock*, a joyful assortment of recordings showcasing artists of today and yesterday as well as performances captured on location in Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and Brittany. Ritchie also presents exclusive in-studio appearances by some of the leading musicians in Celtic music on both sides of the Atlantic.

The object of considerable acclaim from music and radio critics and the American folk music community, *The Thistle and Shamrock* was conceived by Ritchie as a way to share the vibrant, authentic sounds of Celtic music with public radio listeners.

Ritchie selected the title to reflect the intimate environment in which this music is most heard. Says Ritchie, “This music is usually performed in cozy pubs or hotel lounges with names like ‘The Rose and Crown.’ *The Thistle and Shamrock* is a name for our public radio venue, with the thistle representing Scotland and the shamrock representing Ireland.”

Regardless of your own roots, everyone is Celtic Sunday nights at 7 PM on *The Thistle and Shamrock* on GLT. 

IT'S EASY BEIN' GREEN — ON E-TOWN Sundays at Midnight

Welcome to E-TOWN... a place where good time music meets the environmentally-minded. From Boulder, Colorado, where Rocky Mountains touch the stars, musician Nick Forster hosts a weekly one-hour festival of live contemporary folk music and community spirit.

So why the name E-TOWN? “E” stands for a lot of things: Earth, environment, entertainment, energy, ecology, education, Everytown, everyone — the possibilities are endless. Like an old Town Meeting, E-TOWN is a gathering of residents who, together, can make things happen.

But E-TOWN is more than social issues — it’s also pure entertainment. E-TOWN is primarily a music program featuring a wide variety of nationally known guest artists each week. Performers like Michelle Shocked, Lyle Lovett, Maura O’Connell and David Wilcox are just some of the popular contemporary folk (and other) artists you can expect to hear. E-TOWN is also an information source with interesting speakers proving insight and opinions as well as facts and simple suggestions for listeners to incorporate into their daily lives.

Your host for all this fun ‘n’ facts is Nick Foster. A 1991 Grammy nominee, Nick’s nationally-acclaimed talents as bassist, guitarist, singer and songwriter are complemented by his compelling stage presence.

Listeners of E-TOWN can expect the unexpected when it comes to the weekly guest lineup. Nick promises, “My musical wish list is as broad and deep as my record collection — the people I like, I’m going to try to bring to E-TOWN.”

You can pay a visit to E-TOWN each Sunday at midnight here on the very green GLT.

RECOMMENDED RELEASES

Acousticity host Bruce Bergethon has "finger picked" these recent releases for you

JOAN BAEZ

Play Me Backwards (Virgin)

This disc has an array of strengths—Baez in excellent voice, intelligent new songs, wonderful backup from Jerry Douglas and others, and (best of all) the sense of encounter with an old friend who keeps growing. Highly recommended.

BITCHIN' BABES (CHRISTINE LAVIN/SALLY FINGERETT/JULIE GOLD/MEGAN McDONOUGH)

Buy Me Bring Me Take Me Don't Mess My Hair (Philo)

A panorama of new songs from four singer/songwriters who tour as the "BBs." The tongue-in-cheek stuff, particularly from Lavin and McDonough, stands out on first listen, but the serious ones are pretty good, too.

ALISON BROWN

Twilight Motel (Vanguard)

A smorgasbord of new music for the banjo, ranging from contemporary jazz to calypso to progressive bluegrass. Brown's compositional palette draws out fellow exemplary pickers like Mike Marshall, Tony Rice, and Stuart Duncan.

COUNTRY GAZETTE

Keep On Pushing (Flying Fish)

Banjo professor Alan Munde is the only original member in this twentieth anniversary edition of the Gazette, but the band still sounds good. Bluegrass and western swing played with equal doses of respect for tradition and sheer picking pleasure.

STONE LONESOME

Blue Heartache (Red House)

This band from Minnesota provides the aural equivalent of a cup of hot cocoa on a cold morning. Old timey, gospel and bluegrass with a classic sound that mixes Kate MacKenzie's great vocals with beautiful harmonies and understated virtuosity.

TISH HINOJOSA

Culture Swing (Rounder)

One of the best of the Southwestern singer/songwriters in a rootsy exploration of styles from country to ranchero. Guest turns from accordion legend Flaco Jimenez and mandolin phenomenon Paul Glasse, but the focus is on Hinojosa's straightforward vocals and evocative lyrics.

ALISON KRAUSS & UNION STATION

Every time You Say Goodbye (Rounder)

Central Illinois' contribution to contemporary bluegrass in her best recording yet. Krauss sings and fiddles with the best of them, but the band has it all—several strong vocalists and songwriters, and exemplary ensemble sound both vocally and instrumentally.

SELDOM SCENE

20th Anniversary Concert (Sugar Hill)

Whether you're new to the Scene, or a longtime fan, this two CD set yields multiple pleasures. The DC-based band has changed very little over the years, but their sound is still refreshing and best captured, as here, in front of an appreciative audience. All of their hits, and all of John Duffey's high notes.

LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III

History (Charisma)

What an amazing collection of songs. Middle aged manhood examined with sharp wit, unsentimental detail, and empathy. Loudon's in his best voice ever, and gets an assist from Syd Straw, the Roches and the McGarrigles. Even if you hate singer/songwriters, you should check this out.

RADIO FOLIO ON GLT—

THURSDAYS AT 5:30 PM

by News Director Mike McCurdy

WARNING: The following article contains show biz talk. Frank, promotional language is used. Saccharine content exceeds recommended daily allowances. Reader discretion is advised.

A GLT talk show. A year ago it was just a concept, waiting for a meeting. Then we welcomed the new Program Director a few months ago. We call him Chuck.

"Hey, Mike, Babe, can I call you babe? Let's do a show."

"Hey, Chuck, Can I call you Chuck?" I asked. "Let's do lunch first." (Note standard Tinseltown meeting protocol.)

It was sometime after that exchange that Radio Folio was born. Coming up with a talk show name that's nothing like "Perspective", "Focus", or "Viewpoint" is more difficult than you think. We settled on Radio Folio because it looks good in print (which helps a great deal on the radio) and because it's catchy and rhymes.

The name also describes the show. In this case Folio is short for portfolio, a portable case for carrying drawings and papers. Public Radio is known for often sketching a visual picture over the airwaves and your portable case is the radio. Each Thursday evening at 5:30, we'll pull files from the portfolio for your enjoyment and edification.

Radio Folio is something that we in the News Department are excited about. The program gives us a vehicle to bring you interviews and stories about interesting people, events and places found in central Illinois. One of the hallmarks of public radio is reporting that runs long by commercial broadcasting standards. With Radio Folio, we can take nearly 30 minutes to tell a story or complete an interview.

And, Radio Folio is not limited to just material generated by the News Department. The Program also gives the rest of the GLT G-men and G-women (like Chuck) a place to showcase their talents through interviews and stories.

You can leaf through Radio Folio every Thursday evening at 5:30 on WGLT.



TAKING CENTER STAGE THIS MONTH in the GLT Staff Profile Theatre of the Mind is, appropriately enough, our own *Song and Dance Man* and Operations Director Kevin Conlin.

A native of McLean, Illinois, Kevin attended Illinois State University and at first studied computer science and accounting. But he soon began to wonder if he might be happier in a different field.

"I got tired of the concept of being a computer operator, sitting in a small room and talking to machines all day. So, instead I went into radio where I could sit in a small room and talk to myself all day."

After switching his major to Mass Communication, Kevin came to work at WGLT as a reporter, a classical announcer and a jazz host. "I worked in just about every department doing just about anything at a moment's notice. I was a jack-of-all-trades." And as Kevin was eventually to learn, this was perfect training for his future as GLT's Operations Director.

Upon graduation in 1985, Kevin worked as a DJ at WMLA. However, he missed the excitement of news reporting and so returned to WGLT. In early 1988, Assistant News Director Kevin Conlin became the local host of *Morning Edition*. For Kevin, it was a rewarding experience because he felt like a part of the NPR team. He also had the opportunity to cover important issues and stories, like the Persian Gulf War. Of course, the job had its downside, too:


"The miserable hours," Kevin recalled with a groan. "It's tough when you have to get up at 4:00 AM and drive through the worst blizzard of the year and tell your listeners to please stay at home."

As much as Kevin enjoyed being Assistant News Director, he was starting to feel a bit restless. Looking for a way to do something new and refresh his production skills, he volunteered to fill in as acting Operations Director when Eric Hradecky left the station in 1990. Because the position was being reclassified, it turned out to be a long term additional duty; for a year, Kevin worked two full-time jobs. A 12-15 hour day was the norm for him until July 1991, when he was officially named Operations Director. And how did Kevin feel upon hearing the good news?

"Relieved! The first thing I did was take a nap," he quipped.

Once again, Kevin was GLT's jack-of-all-trades. His job covers a wide range of duties, from logging all station breaks, to taping programs from the satellite to trouble shooting with faulty equipment. In short, it's a different job each day.

In addition to his behind-the-scenes duties, Kevin also spends time in front of the microphone. As host of *The Song and Dance Man*, Kevin has three hours each Sunday at 4:00 PM to share with GLT listeners his love of show tunes and big band music.

"I hope listeners have a good time during *Song and Dance Man*. It's a great show to sing along with, to dance with, to conjure old memories and make new ones." 

by Kathryn Carter

"CD player # 2 is acting up again. It doesn't play what I've cued up."

"The tape recorder stopped in the middle of recording Car Talk from the satellite. Can we get a copy from another station before Saturday?"

"One of the cart machines is broken. It won't play at all."



THESE ARE JUST SOME of the problems Operations Director Kevin Conlin deals with on a daily basis these days. But it's no wonder our equipment is wearing out, most of it is ten to twelve years old.

We haven't been able to purchase any new studio equipment because the University hasn't been able to increase the operational part of our budget since 1987. And we've been unable to fill the gap with membership money because the costs of NPR programming have increased 40% over that five years. We've barely been able to keep up with those increases.

Through the outstanding ingenuity and creativity of our engineers Dave Mulcahey and Mark Hill, the GLT equipment has been kept together with electrical tape, bailing twine, begged and borrowed replacement parts and a prayer.

But, we know some of the equipment is really on its last leg, so we've decided we must set up an equipment fund. Now!

Everything we bring you, whether it's music or information programming, depends on the equipment we use. We've always been committed to quality on GLT, and now that quality is being compromised.

Here's how you can help insure the quality of the programs you enjoy remains constant:

- ✧ If you're due to renew your membership in the Friends of WGLT this spring, you can increase your contribution and designate the increase to the equipment fund;
- ✧ If you generally renew in the fall, you can make an additional gift at this time and designate it for the equipment fund;

- ✧ We have our spring membership drive scheduled for March 12 through March 20. At that time, we will allow new members to designate a portion of their membership contribution to the equipment fund;

- ✧ If you work for a company or business that's in a position to make a monetary or in-kind donation to the equipment fund, encourage them to do so.

As usual, we're dependent on your generosity and commitment to quality programming on GLT. Please help us do a better job for you!

If you have any questions about the GLT Equipment Fund, please call Bruce Bergethon or Kathryn Carter at 438-2255. We'll be happy to discuss it with you. ☺

SPRING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FEVER by Kathryn Carter

We need your help between March 12 and March 20! That's when we'll be holding the GLT Spring Membership Drive. And we need your help to answer phones.

It's easy! You answer the phone and accept contributions to GLT from new and renewing friends.

It's fun! The great people who call during the drive usually have terrific things to say about our programming. They are happy and enthusiastic about the station and becoming a friend. What better kind of phone call could you get?

It's hard on the diet! That's because we have wonderful support from the business community at meal time. You come meet the staff and other great volunteers, you work "hard", and you're rewarded with great meals or snacks.

"How do you sign up," you ask? Just call me at 438-2257 and whether you're an early morning or late night person, we'll have a time that fits into your schedule. And, Thanks!

THANKS TO OUR UNDERWRITERS

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UNDERWRITER PROFILE



THE GLT UNDERWRITER SPOTLIGHT now shines on *Paxton's, Inc.* and *Vitesse Cycle Shop*.

A need was observed, help was available and before too long that need was filled. Underwriting GLT programming can be that simple — and helpful. Just ask Jay Paxton of *Paxton's, Inc.* He was approached by GLT Development Director Kathryn Carter and made aware of some deficits in the office equipment department at GLT.

Since *Paxton's, Inc.* specializes in office equipment, Jay Paxton decided to provide his support of GLT programming in the form of an in-kind donation. Thanks to Jay, GLT is now the proud owner of a copy machine and a fax machine — two pieces of equipment vital to the smooth operation of the station.

Having grown up in the Bloomington/Normal community, Jay feels it's important to support local organizations. He thinks GLT is a worthwhile investment of his in-kind support not only because it's a local enterprise, but also because it provides a real alternative to other radio stations in the area. And with help from businesses like *Paxton's, Inc.*, GLT will continue to do just that.

Unique, quality programming is the hallmark of WGLT and for many local businesses it's also the drawing card for providing support. For Chris Koos, owner of *Vitesse Cycle Shop*, the allure began many years ago when GLT carried A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION. *Vitesse Cycle Shop* was one of the underwriters of that highly acclaimed program. When GLT had to drop APHC from the schedule, *Vitesse Cycle Shop* also departed — but not for long.

Fast forward a few years and a new locally oriented show debuts on GLT. It's called ACOUSTICITY — folk with twist. Ever the GLT fan, Chris Koos signs on board again as an underwriter of ACOUSTICITY.

It's clear to Chris that the customer profile of the GLT listeners is the same as VITESSE CYCLE SHOP, so underwriting is a natural way to reach his intended audience. And besides, Chris points out, GLT provides a service you just can't get anywhere else, so it's important to support that kind of original programming. ☘

WEEK AT A GLANCE

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	NEW AGE	NEWS					
9	CLASSICAL	JAZZ					
noon							
4	BROADWAY & BIG BAND	NEWS/INTERVIEWS					BLUES
7		COMEDY					
8		MUSIC SPECIALS					
11 mid.	FOLK	JAZZ				BLUES	

NEWS AND TALK

Morning Edition
Weekdays 5-9a
All Things Considered
Weekdays 4-5:30p
Crossroads
Monday 5:30-6p
Vanishing Homelands
Tuesday 5:30p
Horizons
Wednesday 5:30-6p
Radio Folio
Thursday 5:30-6p
State House Journal
Friday 5:30-6p
Fresh Air
Weekdays 6-7p

WGLT Local News
Weekdays 6:35a, 7:06a,
7:49a, 8:35a, 12:06p,
3:55p, 4:28p
NPR Newscasts
Daily 12:01a and 8:01p,
Weekends, 4:01p

C-Span Radio Journal
Saturday 5-6a
Common Ground
Saturday 6-6:30a
America and the World
Saturday 6:30-7a
Weekend Edition
Sat./Sun. 7-9a
Cartalk
Saturday 4-5p
Whad' Ya Know?
Saturday 5-7p

Poetry Radio
Tue., Thurs., Sun.
10a and 10p
Star Date
Daily 6:59a and 2p

JAZZ

JazzWorks
Weekdays 9a-4p
Saturday 9a-noon
Piano Jazz with
Marian McPartland
Monday 7-8p
Jazzset with
Branford Marsalis
Wednesday 7-8p
Nightmusic
Mon.-Thurs. 8-1a

BLUES AND SOUL

Bluesstage
Friday 7-8p
(Frank) Black
and Blues
Friday 8p-1a
Boon at Noon
Saturday noon-4p
Rhythm Revue
Saturday 7-8p
Bluesline
Saturday 8p-midnight
Creole Gumbo Radio Show
Saturday midnight-1a

OTHER MUSIC

Brazilian Hour
Tuesday 7-8p
Afropop Worldwide
Thursday 7-8p
Hearts of Space
Sunday 5-7a
Sunday Salon (classical)
Sunday 9a-4p
Song and Dance Man
(Broadway & film music
& Big Band)
Sunday 4-7p
Thistle and Shamrock (Celtic)
Sunday 7-8p
Acousticity (folk)
Sunday 8-12 mid.
Rider's Radio Theater
Sunday 10:15 p
E-Town (folk)
Sunday mid-1a



WGLT 8910
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61761

W G L T S T A F F

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